

# Go!

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

***~Hebrews 13:7-8 (NASB)***

## **1) The Big Picture Of “Going”**

- A) Obviously, when we think of the “Great Commission” from Jesus Christ, all of us would immediately turn to Matthew 28:18-20 for the familiar sending passage of “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”
- B) Like most of Jesus’ teachings though, this is only one of several “sending passages” which Jesus taught. Let’s take a look at the other sending passages this morning, and explore their common themes and objections.
- C) First, just after His resurrection, Jesus tells His followers that He is sending them out, just as the Father has sent Him out (John 20:21). Jesus’ ministry (as detailed in Luke 19, the “Lost” chapter), was to intentionally “seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
- D) Second, just prior to His ascension, Jesus commissions His followers to “witness” to others by proclaiming “repentance for forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:46-49). This is the content of our co-missioning, we are proclaimers of repentance and forgiveness. People will never be ultimately transformed through any other means!

- E) Third, shortly thereafter, Jesus detailed the “Great Commission,” to “make disciples” and to do so as we “go; baptizing, and teaching” in the Trinity (Matthew 28:18-20). The central mission of any follower of Jesus is to “make disciples” of all the “lost people.”
- F) Finally, at some indeterminate time before His ascension, Jesus tells His disciples the scope of the mission, in Judea (own context), Samaria (close-by cross-cultural context), and “even the end of lands/uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The location of our commission is extensive!

## 2) But, I Don't Have The Gift Of Evangelism...

- A) Surveys of churches, from large to tiny, reveal that only one in ten people feel “gifted” with a passion for evangelism. Of that 10% of the population, only 10% use their “gifting,” often due to a lack of evangelistic training or involvement in other areas of ministry which demand their ministry effort.
- B) First things first... If you think you might have an evangelistic gift (strong emotional desire to reach the lost, strong response to your evangelistic efforts) -- develop your gifting (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:6). If you are a part of the “nine out of one hundred,” please grow in your gifting!
- C) If though, like me, you are part of the “90 out of 100” who are not gifted for evangelism, we are still called to evangelize and be missional, although we are not called to lead these areas of ministry in the local church!
- D) There is a great list of spiritual gifts (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-11; longer discussion goes from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12-14) and offices for spiritual giftings (1st Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-13).
- E) These are areas of spiritual leadership within the church, and should not be viewed as exclusive roles which do not include the rest of us. In other words, just because some are gifted with wisdom, faith, healing, prophecy, etc., does not mean everyone is not involved in these ministries!
- F) Rather, we are all co-missioned to be intentional “go-ers!”